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A REPORT OF INTERIM ACTIVITY . . . MONTANA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL . . . HELENA

JULY 1979

VOL II, NO. 2

Enclosed with this issue is a list of interim committee assignments made by the Legislative Council in June. We wish to keep this list for permanent reference. Also, in this issue we are beginning a new feature that we hope will be useful. A calendar of scheduled meetings will be included each month. Hopefully we hope to be able to include both the current month and the month following. This should help all of us with our scheduling.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**BACK ISSUES
OF SESSION
LAWS NEEDED -
ESPECIALLY
1977**

The Legislative Council provides session laws to many persons all over the country as well as to legislators. It takes some fancy guesswork to be sure the correct number are printed. In some past years we guessed low. Several legislators have said they would be willing to donate past copies to the Council for redistribution. The stock of 1977 session laws is critically short. If you would like to donate a set you have lying around the house, please let the Council staff know.

INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

**ANNEXATION
TO MEET**

The Study Committee on Annexation called for by HJR 54 will hold its initial meeting on Friday, July 20, at 10:00 A.M. in Room 104 of the Capitol. The agenda for the meeting includes election of a chairman and vice-chairman, development of a study plan, and schedule for future meetings.

**CORRECTIONS
COMMITTEE
TO MEET**

The Study Committee on Corrections Policy and Facility Needs called for by HJR 65 and HJR 59 will meet July 20 at 9:00 A.M. in Room 108 of the Capitol. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers, set study goals, and establish plans for the study.

The Director of the Department of Institutions will make a presentation to the Committee concerning identified correctional needs, the Corrections Master Plan, and recent development in prison expansion.

FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS
BRANCHING

The study of Financial Institution Branching will begin with a July 16 meeting to be held in Room 108 of the Capitol at 10:00 A.M. The Committee will organize and discuss a study plan designed to accomplish the tasks outlined in HJR 49.

IN-LIEU
PAYMENTS AND
MANDATES

The first meeting of the Committee that is directed to study Payments in Lieu of Taxes for State-Owned Property and Mandates to Local Governments has not been set but is tentatively scheduled for late August. The National Conference of State Legislatures is assisting selected states who wish to determine the problems that state-owned property causes local governments. Council staff is currently exploring the feasibility of receiving assistance from the NCSL staff that would help us to determine the extent of the problem of state-owned property in Montana.

ENERGY
FORECASTING

The Study Committee on Energy Forecasting plans to meet for the first time in late July or early August. At that meeting, the Committee will organize, establish a schedule for future meetings, and establish a plan for conducting the study. Because of the technical nature of the energy forecasting issue, the Committee will discuss contracting with outside consultants, particularly in the area of forecasting methods, to help complete the study.

RETIREMENT
SYSTEMS AND
INFLATION

The first meeting of the Committee directed to study the state's retirement systems has also not been scheduled. This Committee will study the effects of inflation on state retirement systems, the feasibility of consolidating the systems and funding alternatives. The Legislative Audit Committee anticipates that they will complete an audit of the state's retirement systems late this summer or early fall. Since the Audit Committee's work includes an explanation of consolidating some of the retirement systems, the Council's interim committee will be able to use the results of the audit in its study of consolidation.

CONTAINER
DEPOSITS

The Study Committee on Container Deposits will hold its first meeting on July 1, 1979 at 10:00 A.M. in Room 104 of the Capitol. The meeting will be devoted to election of officers and discussion of a study work plan. The Committee was established under HJR 56.

SEED
CERTIFICATION

No date has been set to begin the study of seed certification in Montana. It is hoped that a meeting can be scheduled for mid or late August to begin the work called for by HJR 62.

INDIAN
AFFAIRS
LEADERSHIP
SELECTED

The Select Committee on Indian Affairs met in Helena for an organizational meeting on June 29, 1979. Senator William Lowe was elected chairman, and Representative Thomas Conroy was elected vice-chairman. The Committee plans to meet again in August.

REVENUE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

ROC
TO MEET

The Revenue Oversight Committee will hold an organizational meeting Saturday, July 14, at 10:00 A.M. in Room 104, State Capitol, Helena. The Committee will elect officers and appoint a member to fill a vacancy on the Committee.

The Committee plans to discuss its procedures for reviewing administrative rules proposed by the Department of Revenue and consider tentative work plans for its interim studies.

COAL TAX
COMMITTEES
MEET

The Coal Tax Oversight Committee and the Coal Tax Oversight Subcommittee held a joint meeting June 25 to acquaint new members with the Committee's past work, to discuss the transition between the two groups, and to consider its new relationship to the Revenue Oversight Committee. Senator Dave Manning was elected chairman of the Subcommittee.

The members briefly reviewed the current status of the programs financed by the coal severance tax and discussed the recent grants awarded by the Coal Board at some length.

The Subcommittee outlined its plans for continued oversight of coal tax programs, with particular emphasis this interim on the Renewable Resources

program, the parks acquisition and maintenance program, and the Resources Indemnity Trust fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE COMMITTEE

MEETING The Administrative Code Committee met in Helena on June 8. The Committee initiated the government paperwork study required by SB 287. The Committee also considered Issues 8-10 of the Montana Administrative Register. The chairman of the Committee is Representative Jack Ramirez, and the vice-chairman is Senator Dick Smith. A meeting is planned in late July.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEETING The Legislative Finance Committee met on June 29 and 30 at the Capitol.

APPROPRIATIONS The staff presented the 1979 Appropriations Report
REPORT to the Committee. The report is a wrap-up of legislative fiscal action taken. A copy is forwarded to each legislator

NURSING The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
HOMES presented a report to the Committee on funding nursing homes. It was the Department's belief that, while problems may arise in isolated instances, the legislative appropriation for nursing homes is adequate to provide the needed level of services.

PRISON The Committee heard a presentation from the Department of Institutions concerning inmate population
ALTERNATIVES and the status of prison alternatives funded last Legislature. Through this fiscal year, the population estimates are proving accurate.

The department asked the Committee's opinion of whether a work camp could be built elsewhere than the Stillwater state forest. The Committee's view was that the language in the law requires a Stillwater camp or no camp at all.

COAL TAX The Committee discussed the grants approved by the Coal Board. A subcommittee was appointed consisting of Senators McCallum and Fasbender and Representatives Dusssault (Chair) and Donaldson to work to develop criteria for determining adverse economic impact from coal development. The study

would be in cooperation with the Tax Oversight Subcommittee.

NEXT MEETING The next meeting of the Committee will be in mid-September.

LEGISLATIVE CONSUMER COMMITTEE

MEETING The Legislative Consumer Committee met on June 22, 1979 primarily to consider organization of staff and handling of affairs of the office during the transition of stewardship from Geoffrey Brazier to James Paine. Committee members include Rep. Joe Quillen, Butte, Chairman; Sen. Allen Kolstad, Chester, Vice-Chairman; Rep. Earl Eby, Missoula; and Sen. Paul Boylan, Bozeman.

The Committee agreed to conditions for retaining the services of Mr. Brazier on a consultant basis to aid in the transition until the end of the year. It agreed to advertise an opening with the office for the position of rate analyst. It placed on the agenda of the next meeting consideration of the merits of hiring a salaried attorney and the merits of hiring audits of the office and staff activities under the previous administration.

Subjects of discussion included the motor carrier diesel fuel shortage, national energy issues, possibility of litigation with respect to Amtrak service in the state, pending cases of regulatory importance and the possibility of applying for grants under the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978.

LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE

MEETING The Legislative Audit Committee met on June 20, 1979 in the Capitol.

LEGISLATIVE Morris L. Brusett was reappointed Legislative Auditor
AUDITOR for the 1979-81 biennium.

REPORT The Committee received, reviewed, and filed the
ISSUED financial/compliance audit report on the Department of Revenue, Property Assessment Division.

SUNSET A revised approach to sunset was approved by the
APPROACH Committee. Copies of the new approach are available upon request.

CPA CONTRACTS CPA firms were awarded contract audits for the fiscal year 1978-79 audits of Board of Investments, Galen State Hospital, Boulder River School and Hospital, Montana State Prison, Montana State University, Northern Montana College, University of Montana, Department of Business Regulation, CETA Subgrants, Department of Community Affairs, Department of Livestock, Montana State Library, Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology, Department of Professional and Occupational Licensing, Department of State Lands, and the Treasury Division--Department of Administration.

REPORTS Legislative Auditor's Office, Room 135, State
AVAILABLE Capitol, Helena, Montana, 449-3122.

LEGISLATIVE INTERIM CALENDAR

MONTH JULY

SATURDAY

FRIDAY

THURSDAY

WEDNESDAY

TUESDAY

MONDAY

SUNDAY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 CONTAINER DEPOSITS RM. 104 10 A.M.	14 REVENUE OVERSIGHT RM. 104 10 A.M.
15	16 BRANCH BANKING RM. 108 10:00 A.M.	17	18	19	20 PRISON STUDY RM. 108 9:00 to 5:00 ----- ANNEXATION RM. 104 10:00 to 5:00	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MEMBERSHIP OF 1979-81 INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES

HJR 54 - Annexation Laws

Sen. Steve Brown (D)	Rep. James Azzara (D)
Sen. Lloyd Lockrem (R)	Rep. Jay Fabrega (R)
Sen. George McCallum (R)	Rep. Burt Hurwitz (R)
Sen. Robert Peterson (D)	Rep. Gerald Kessler (D)

HJR 65/59 - Prison Needs/Corrections/Policy/Sentencing

Sen. Bob Brown (R)	Rep. Budd Gould (R)
Sen. Stan Stephens (R)	Rep. Andrea Hemstad (R)
Sen. Thomas Towe (D)	Rep. Michael Keedy (D)
Sen. Fred Van Valkenberg (D)	Rep. Dan Yardley (D)

HJR 49 - Branching of Financial Institutions

Sen. Paul Boylan (D)	Rep. W. F. Bennett (R)
Sen. Pat Goodover (R)	Rep. Harold Gerke (D)
Sen. Matt Himsl (R)	Rep. Bob Marks (R)
Sen. Pat Regan (D)	Rep. Joe Tropila (D)

SJR 38 - Payments in Lieu of Taxes for State-Owned Property/
Mandates to Local Governments

Sen. Max Conover (D)	Rep. Verner Bertelsen (R)
Sen. Everett Lensink (R)	Rep. Mike Cooney (D)
Sen. Jesse O'Hara (R)	Rep. Hershel Robbins (D)
Sen. Robert Watt (D)	Rep. Bobby Spilker (R)

HJR 17 - Energy Forecasting

Sen. Harold Dover (R)	Rep. Art Lund (R)
Sen. Greg Jergeson (D)	Rep. Joe Quilici (D)
Sen. George Roskie (R)	Rep. Carl Seifert (R)
Sen. C. R. Thiessen (D)	Rep. John Vincent (D)

HJR 40 - Retirement Systems

Sen. Gary Aklestad (R)	Rep. William Menahan (D)
Sen. William Hafferman (D)	Rep. Howard Porter (R)
Sen. Tom Hager (R)	Rep. James Schultz (R)
Sen. Lawrence Stimatz (D)	Rep. John Vincent (D)

HJR 56 - Container Deposits

Sen. Allen Kolstad (R)	Rep. Hal Harper (D)
Sen. Tom Rasmussen (R)	Rep. Dennis Iverson (R)
Sen. Pat Ryan (D)	Rep. Bob Pavlovich (D)
	Rep. Bob Thoft (R)

HJR 62 - Seed Certification

Sen. Mike Anderson (R)
Sen. Paul Boylan (D)
Sen. John Manley (D)
Sen. Elmer Severson (R)

Rep. Gene Donaldson (R)
Rep. Bob Ellerd (F)
Rep. George Johnston (D)
Rep. Ed Lien (D)

HJR 58 - University System Funding

(Legislative Finance Committee)

Rep. Carroll South (D),
Chairman
Rep. Francis Berdanoue (D)
Rep. Gene Donaldson (R)
Rep. Ann Mary Dussault (D)
Rep. Art Lund (R)
Rep. Jack Moore (R)

Sen. Ed Smith (R),
Vice-Chairman
Sen. Gary Aklstad (R)
Sen. Larry Fashender (D)
Sen. George McCallum (F)
Sen. Bill Norman (D)
Sen. Pat Regan (D)

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